



St. Patrick's R.C. Church

Glenfield Road, Fairfield,
Stockton-on-Tees, TS19 7PJ

Parish Priest : Fr. John Cooper
Tel. 01642 674321

Sunday 9th August 2020

Following Peter's story throughout the Gospels, we see that he lives out the ambiguity of our human condition – he, like us, is always a mixture of faith and doubt; courage and cowardice. The quality of Peter's faith here is once again to obey Jesus command to "Come," this time not to follow him but to actually go and meet him. In the midst of this faith, Peter doubts. He is human, susceptible to fear and anxiety. Precisely at his moment of weakness and failure the hand of Jesus touches him. That is the teaching of the Gospel that God saves us in our failure.



The hand of God is a human hand. Jesus reaches out to guide us, steady us, support us, all the things a touch of the hand can do. When we take our eyes off Jesus and focus on our difficult circumstances, we begin to sink under the weight of our problems. If we cry out to Jesus in faith, he will catch us by the hand and raise us above seemingly impossible situations.

Lord, you have called us to step out in faith, to place our lives in your hands. At times we know this can be difficult to do. It is not always easy to follow where you are leading us, but like Peter we cry out to you and we hear your gentle voice, "It is me, do not be afraid." Continue to give us the strength and courage as we walk through the storms of fear and doubt, knowing that you are right there with us. Amen.

We pray for those who have difficulty in accepting the invitation of Jesus to walk with Him and accept his teachings. We pray that the Lord, through his Holy Spirit, bestow on them the great gift of faith.

Lord hear our Prayer

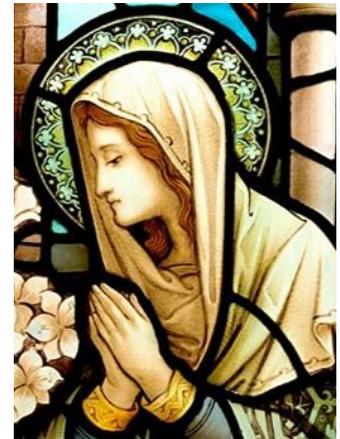
We pray for the people of Beirut in the Lebanon and particularly for those injured and bereaved in this week's horrific explosions, that the grace of God be bestowed on them and give them consolation at this time of great sorrow.

Lord hear our Prayer

Next Saturday we celebrate the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin into Heaven, a reward for her full acceptance of the will of the Father in accepting the motherhood of the Christ with its pain, suffering and loss. We pray to the Lord that we too be given the grace to also accept the will of God in our lives.

Lord hear our Prayer

19th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR			
9	Sunday		People of our Parish (Mass with no congregation)
10	Monday <i>St Laurence, Deacon</i>	9.15am	Mavis McQuillan
11	Tuesday <i>St Clare of Assisi</i>	7.00pm	Monica McShane
12	Wednesday	9.15am	Holy Souls & their Families
13	Thursday	7.00pm	Thanksgiving ~ George Hunton ~ St. Patrick's RC Primary School
14	Friday <i>St Maximilian Mary Kolbe</i>		No Mass
15	Saturday	9.15am	Joan Southgate
The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary			
16	Sunday		People of our Parish (Mass with no congregation)
Anniversaries:		Susan Brown, Paul Lindo, Ezra Allcock, Joyce Wild	
		Riska Okninski Billy McGuinness, Pat Jackson, Margaret Devlin, Pauline Morton, Mike Rutland, Margaret Kenning, Christopher Brown, Fr. Pat McKenna, Rosie Owens, Andrew Brydon, Mary Talbot, Veronica Connors, Betty Griffiths, Sadie Todd, Audrey Bentley	



Lord, teach us to be more like Jesus, to know when the time has come for us to be alone; we insist that even our closest friends leave so that we can go to a place by ourselves to pray. In that place of inner silence we become aware of our brothers and sisters far out on the lake and battling with a heavy sea. Amen

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS . . .

- **First Reading ~ 1 Kings 19:9, 11-13**
- **Responsorial Psalm ~ Psalm 84:9-14**
- **Second Reading ~ Romans 9:1-5**
- **Gospel ~ Matthew 14:22-33**



After more than 25 years George Hunton is retiring from the Governing Board of St Patrick's school. George has served the school and the interests of the many children who have attended the school during those 25 years with loyalty and commitment.

On behalf of the whole community of St Patrick's we sincerely thank George for all he has done and wish him and Joan a happy retirement from school governance work. (Chris Wilson, Chair of Governors)

The Vicariate For Faith & Mission

Upcoming formation available from September

Due to ongoing Covid-19 restrictions our plans in the short term are to offer formation and training online. **To register your interest and to find out more details please visit the Diocesan Website and select the August E-Newsletter.**

The God Who Speaks: The Year of the Word - Unlocking the Mysteries of the Bible: Many people want to read the Bible because they know it is God's Word but give up because it is so complicated. The ***Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible*** study programme helps you to get the 'big picture' of the Bible by showing how fourteen narrative books of the Bible tell the complete story from Adam and Eve to Christ and the Church.

Called and Gifted – Discerning your Gifts and Mission: *"God has created me to do Him some definite service; He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have a mission."* St. John Henry Newman, CO.

God is calling you to a unique purpose in life, a work of love that only you can do. The Called and Gifted process is designed to assist you in determining the gifts and mission that God has given you through a series of online workshops and conversations. The workshops consist of online videos and discussions that cover Church teaching, my uniqueness and my time and place. The Called and Gifted process is aimed towards people over the age of 18 who are committed to their faith. It is due to begin at the end of October.

Reading Resource: The Vatican has released some key reading for those involved in parish ministry: There is a new publication of ***The Directory for Catechesis*** which may be of interest to those involved in catechesis and education. It can be purchased from Pauline Books and Media, it contains the latest thinking from Rome with regards content and methodology for those involved in sharing the faith. Please see Diocesan website for more information.

Tools for 'Discerning the Action of God in my Life' . . . A Zoom programme over five sessions, for young women and men, offering input, and time for reflection and prayer. There will also be suggestions to use between sessions, to enable you to deepen your reflection. **The first session is on Saturday 19th September 2020, 'Discovering God'**. For more information, contact Sr Silvana Dallanegra discerngodsaction@gmail.com

St. Maximilian Kolbe ~ Feast Day 14th August

St. Maximilian Kolbe, you gave your life so that a family might not be deprived of a husband and father. By your heroic martyrdom of charity, teach us that the value of family life is worth our sacrifices also. Just as you found in Mary the channel of those graces that strengthened you to be faithful to her Son, help us to rejoice also in her who was given to us as a mother by Jesus from the cross. Be with us, St. Maximilian, as we pray for the special needs of our families. Amen



Pope Francis' Monthly Intention for August ~ *The Maritime World*



We pray for all those who work and live from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen and their families.

Visit www.missio.org.uk/pray. Scroll down to pray the Pope's Intention and you will be able to watch this month's accompanying video.

THANK YOU

Little Sisters of the Poor Appeal . . . A huge thank you to everyone who answered the plea of The Little Sisters of the Poor after they launched an urgent fundraising appeal in response to the increasing pressures faced by St. Joseph's Care Home during the current Coronavirus pandemic. To date they have received £18,801 for which they are extremely grateful. With all fundraising events being prohibited, this unprecedented and ongoing situation is proving increasingly difficult and costly as they strive to meet the daily running costs of the Home and maintain the levels of personal protective equipment (PPE) needed to protect the Sisters and staff. They thank the Diocese, for their genuine concern and generosity.

THANK YOU to all St. Patrick's parishioners who are delivering bulletins, providing treats and for all other acts of kindness during these difficult times.

Please forward any prayers, thoughts, poems, news, anniversaries or any item that you would like to share and I will include them on the bulletin. Thank you.

Please could you pass this newsletter round the parish by forwarding to your parish contacts. If you do not wish to receive future newsletters please email stockton.stpatrick@rcdhn.org.uk or stpatricks.fairfield@btinternet.com to be removed from the mailing list. If you know of any parishioner who would like to start receiving the bulletin please ask them to e-mail the above. This bulletin can also be accessed through the Parish Family Stockton website: www.parishfamilystockton.org.uk.